



# Penrallt Baptist Church

**Newsletter: November 2017**

Romans chapter 8 says: "28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

But it sometimes does not feel like that.

What a month we have had. As you know we began with concern for Allison undergoing her second bout of chemotherapy and praying that she would not feel too ill during it, that Cecilia would have the strength to care for her and that Freddy would have the strength to care for his family in London and also his church family in Bangor. And then, on the way back from London to lead our worship services, to chair our members' planning meeting and to give of his wisdom and experience as he aims to lead us into a deeper love and commitment to Christ, he himself was taken ill. But the church did not stop. We knew the surpassing Love of Jesus and we met and we prayed and we exchanged messages of hope and trust online and we prayed, and when all else failed we prayed. As I write this Freddy has moved back to London to be with Cecilia, the doctors and the hospitals and their administrations have worked wonders and he is receiving great care as they prepare for surgery shortly. We believe he will make a full recovery and will return to us early in the New Year full of energy to proclaim the unfailing mercies of Our Lord and Saviour.

In the meantime Penrallt continues on the path, following Jesus. In our services we will learn again that our Sovereign Lord suffered for sinful man and is the source of our security and salvation. Several people will testify to the work of Christ in their lives at the Baptism service on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> November – do come and bring your friends so that they also may hear that

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God is good. The church has seven new members, people who have decided to serve Christ by working with us, realising that Penrallt is not just for them – it is for the Glory of God. As I said at the church meeting God is the owner of Penrallt, Freddy is the captain, I will try and spur you on as the coach, but you are the players, not just the spectators. We will follow President Kennedy's inaugural address and "Ask not what Penrallt can do for us – ask what we can do for Penrallt".

So at a time when we have temporarily lost our local shepherd, though never the One True Shepherd of the flock, and when we are in distress about all the illness that has come upon Freddy and his family and also on the lives of many others that are dear to us we are resolved to stand firm. I pray that each day we will follow Joshua and choose.

"Then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

For as Romans continues in verse 35:

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

<sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God bless you richly,

*Neil*

***Deadline for next month's newsletter: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November.***

*Please send information to Magnus (office@penrallt.org; 01248 353355). All notices should be submitted in writing (preferably by email) as early as possible.*

## ***Services This Month***

Amy Burrows (the daughter of our church treasurer) and Keren Coney work with Gobaith Môn in several schools on Anglesey; Keren's husband, Gus, is the pastor of Elim Pentecostal Church in Holyhead. The other speakers are all members of Penrallt. In the morning services we will be starting a series of sermons based on the latter part of the book of Isaiah.

### **5<sup>th</sup> November**

10:30am Speaker: Roger Borlace

#### **Sovereign Lord**

*Isaiah 40:21–31*

During this service we will be meeting Chris and Anna Hembury from Hull Youth For Christ. This morning's offering will be given to their work.

6:00pm Communion Service Speaker: Billy Elliott

#### **The Lord is near**

*Philippians 4:4–9*

### **12<sup>th</sup> November** (Remembrance Sunday)

10:30am Speaker: Geoff Birch

#### **The message of the plough**

*Luke 9:51–62;*

*Romans 7:14–20*

6:00pm Speakers: Keren & Gus Coney and Amy Burrows

#### **Bringing Christ to the youth of North Wales**

### **19<sup>th</sup> November**

10:30am Speaker: Neil Rymer

#### **Sinful Man**

*Isaiah 42:18–25*

6:00pm Baptismal service led by Roshni Verghese and Lawrence Moss

### **26<sup>th</sup> November**

10:30am Communion Service Speaker: Deb Stammers

#### **Suffering Saviour**

*Isaiah 52:13–53:12*

6:00pm Speaker: James Goodman.

#### **The Lord is Here**

*John 1:14; Matthew 11:2–6*

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30–9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Twrgwyn Room.
<b>Wednesday 1</b>	10:30am	Men's prayer meeting followed by coffee.
<b>Sunday 5</b>	2:15pm	Service at Haulfre residential home in Llangoed.
<b>Monday 6</b>	7:30pm	Deacons' meeting.
<b>Saturday 11</b>	10am–12pm	United Nations Association's World Charities Fair at the Quaker Meeting House, Dean St.
<b>Monday 13</b>	2pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting.
<b>Monday 20</b>	10:30am	Church Walk at Llyn Cefni.
<b>Tuesday 21</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel.</b>
<b>Saturday 25</b>	9:30am–4pm	Sunday School leaders' training.

*Please see the Noticeboard section of this newsletter for more about many of these events.*

## ***News of People***

We congratulate Matt Dawson & Rebecca Robinson on their engagement.

Our Minister, Freddy Farias-Palacios, is in London with his family and is scheduled for further tests in early November as part of his ongoing treatment. His daughter, Allison, has completed her third and final round of chemotherapy and we pray that she will now be clear of all cancer.

Eve Malone has undergone two operations in October and is due to be starting chemotherapy at the beginning of November.

Mark & Eve Young are due to be returning to the UK in early November, somewhat earlier than anticipated due to health problems that Eve has been struggling with. However, Mark is now suffering from severe vertigo. Our prayers are that he will be able to travel, and also for complete healing and peace for both of them.

## ***Children's Birthdays in November***

4<sup>th</sup>: Rio Penny    8<sup>th</sup>: Leah Rene Ngoga    24<sup>th</sup>: Mika Owen

## ***Homegroups***

Many of our folk meet in small groups during the week for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. We encourage you to join one of these groups if you are able to.

*NB homegroups generally do not meet on the week of the monthly prayer meeting and may not meet all other weeks – please check with the homegroup facilitator. All phone numbers below have the 01248 area code.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Contacts</b>
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Nilgiri	Joan Beer (353874)
<b>Tue</b>	7:30pm	Tyddyn Isaf (Menai Bridge)	Magnus Forrester-Barker (717570)
<b>Wed</b>	2:00pm	Carers	Carol Morris (208407)
<b>Wed</b>	7:30pm	Nomads	Pat & Roger Borlace (713146)
<b>Thu</b>	10:30am	Llanfairpwll (am)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Llanfairpwll (pm)	Sue & Lawrence Moss (713793)
<b>Thu</b>	7:30pm	Ogwen Valley	Brian & Kate Wheatcroft (602516)
<b>Fri</b>	10:30am– 12:30pm	The Lydias	Freda Birchall (371316) Lesley Jackson (680330)

## ***Advance Notice: Christmas Dates***

**10<sup>th</sup> December** (6pm) – *Community Carols by Candlelight*. Our annual opportunity to celebrate Christmas with the users of Canolfan Penrallt, our neighbours in Upper Bangor and a mountain of mince pies.

**17<sup>th</sup> December** (10:30am) – Sunday School Nativity Service.

**24<sup>th</sup> December** (10:30am) – Family Service led by Jon & Deb Stammers.

**25<sup>th</sup> December** (10:30am) – Christmas Morning Family Service.

NB there will be no evening services on 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December. There may be a New Year's Celebration (incorporating prayer and worship as well as food and fellowship) later in the evening on the 31<sup>st</sup> (to be confirmed).

## ***Noticeboard:***

### ◇ **Baptism**

There is a Baptismal service planned for 6pm on the evening of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Come and bring your friends to see and hear how people have been challenged to dedicate their lives to serving Christ as Lord and Saviour.

### ◇ **Church Lunch**

*Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November*

We will, as usual, have a church lunch on the first Sunday of the month. Please bring enough buffet-style food for yourself and a few others.

### ◇ **Church Walk**

*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November*

*10:30am*

This month's walk will be led by Roger & Pat Borlace. Meet in Llangefni at the Oriel Môn art gallery free car park at 10:30am. Then go through the Dingle Nature Reserve (where we saw a red squirrel when we were planning this walk). Then eat sandwiches on the way round Llyn Cefni (bird-watchers should bring their binoculars). Back through the Dingle to the car park, and a cup of tea in the excellent café in the Oriel. It's about 6 miles, but there are no hills so it's easy walking. For more information, contact Roger & Pat (713146).

### ◇ **Faith Café**

*Sundays*

*4–5:45pm*

Faith Café, aimed principally at students, has a slightly different format this year and now runs *before* the evening service. It is a place to meet around free hot drinks, soup, bread and a variety of cheeses, to chat, play games and talk faith – a chilled out space that's perfect to bring your flatmates to. For more information about this and other student activities, please speak to Matt Dawson, our student co-ordinator ([students@penrallt.org](mailto:students@penrallt.org)).

### ◇ **Monthly Prayer Meeting**

*Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November*

*7:30pm*

Our monthly mid-week prayer meetings are for the whole congregation and all are warmly encouraged to attend. The meetings usually take place in the chapel, and last about an hour. The next two after November are due to be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. We also have a weekly prayer meeting on Saturday mornings at 8:30am, which usually lasts slightly less than one hour.

### ◇ **Pastoral Help**

If you have issues of concern about your own or someone else's welfare, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care team: Adrienne Ferrada; Gwen Hicks; Geoff Moore (410582); Lawrence Moss (713793); Judy Stammers (364394); Helen Thomas (600174); Roshni Verghese (07967 320048).

### ◇ **Pray for Penrallt Every Day**

We believe in prayer and encourage people to pray. You can send prayer request to our electronic diary via [office@penrallt.org](mailto:office@penrallt.org) (there are also prayer cards in the church porch that you can fill in). Better still, you can receive the prayer diary straight to your inbox every Monday (or occasionally on Tuesdays) by emailing the office now and requesting to be put on the list. For more immediate and interactive sharing of prayers, search on Facebook for *Penrallt Prayer Point* and send a request to join our group.

### ◇ **Rough Sleepers**

The church's policy is not to give money directly to the rough sleepers in Upper Bangor. Be reminded that they could, at times, be aggressive towards others. You will find brown envelopes in the porch for a gift that will buy meal vouchers which are distributed to rough sleepers by the Cathedral; this certainly would be a more meaningful form of help.

### ◇ **Special Offer**

Manna (the Christian shop opposite Penrallt) is offering 20% off all full-price books and CDs throughout the month of November.

### ◇ **Sunday Afternoon Services**

We visit residential homes in the area once a month on a Sunday afternoon, alternating between Haulfre (in Llangoed, near Beaumaris, starting at 2:15pm) and Plas Garnedd (in Llanberis, starting at 2:45pm), usually on the first Sunday. This month we are due to visit Haulfre on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November** but please check with the church office or see that week's news sheet to confirm that this is going ahead.

Focus on...



## Claire Bedford

### *Serving with BMS in Chad*

Clare Bedford relocated to N'Djamena in Chad, West Africa in January 2016, following a year of French language study in France. Claire is working for BMS at Guinebor II hospital.



Claire is a pharmacist, originally from North Devon. She trained at the University of Bath and Torbay Hospital. In the UK Claire worked as a hospital pharmacist and more recently as a prescribing advisor for GP practices.

Claire's role in Chad is to continue the development of the pharmacy service at Guinebor II hospital, which is primarily a maternity hospital. As well as having supervisory oversight of the pharmacy and the lab, Claire has been doing some administrative tasks alongside the Chadian administrator and another long-term mission worker. Claire is also involved in overseeing the building of the new surgery centre – the foundations were dug out manually and all the bricks are handmade.

The working language of the hospital, between the staff, is French. However, not many Chadians speak French. In order to be able to interact directly with the patients, Claire is learning to speak Chadian Arabic.

Claire recently welcomed Penrallt's Dr Ruth Bevan to work at Guinebor II hospital for seven weeks.

Claire asks us to pray for:

- Her own ongoing security and safety in Chad – Claire was recently mugged at gunpoint outside a friend's house in the middle of the day; fortunately she reports no major negative after-effects.
- The hospital staff as they work in an environment where witch doctors are everywhere and health treatment by the witch doctors' "potions" is regularly practiced, usually before attending the hospital.

For more information:

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/people/claire-bedford/>